



# MEMORANDUM

Date: April 17, 2026

To: The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner *Jan Leshner*  
County Administrator

Re: **Additional Information for the April 21, 2026, Board of Supervisors Meeting - Agenda Item No. 37 – Pima County Climate Action Update on PimaCan! for County Operations (CAPCO) Activities**

The Pima County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved the [Pima County Climate Action Plan for County Operations \(CAPCO\) on December 2, 2025](#), and the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) submitted the [Regional Comprehensive Climate Action Plan \(CCAP\)](#) along the same timeline.

Those two documents are foundational in setting the County - and the region's - emissions goals, but also climate action priorities, and shared strategies across County departments, and partners across the region. These document center around mitigation and adaptation strategies but are also centered around community climate resilience.

The regional PCAP and CCAP efforts gathered substantial public feedback around climate priorities and collective action the community would like to see actioned by the jurisdictions within the regional effort. Through the approval of the May 6, 2025, Climate Resolution 2025-11, the tenets of the CAPCO are enumerated - specifically, the 2030 emissions reduction goals committing the County a Net Zero target by 2050. Combined, these actions are collectively Pima Climate Action Now (PimaCan!).

### CAPCO First Year Priorities

In December, the County's Climate Action Teams prepared a comprehensive Implementation Plan that laid forth the yearly activities and goals for the 5-year CAPCO. Upon the December approval of the plan, the Climate Action Teams kicked off the CAPCO on January 9, 2026, to set the first-year baseline goals and activities throughout the upcoming year, across the chapters of the plan - Carbon & Energy, Waste & Materials, Extreme Heat, Wildfire & Invasive Species, Water, Landscapes and Climate & Community (resilience).

Many of the first-year activities are rooted in collecting baselines and conducting a series of data assessments. The focus of these activities is to ensure all subsequent year goals are strategically aligned with critical investments that meet emissions strategies, have co-benefit across the chapters (determining priority zones), positively benefit costs, and demonstrate community climate resilience.

*Jan Leshner*

APR 17 2026 11:30 AM PCLK/ED

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors  
Re: **Additional Information for the April 21, 2026, Board of Supervisors Meeting - Agenda Item No. 37 – Pima County Climate Action Update on PimaCan! for County Operations (CAPCO) Activities**  
April 17, 2026  
Page 2

Each chapter has respective working groups outlined in the CAPCO that meet regularly to align tasks and timelines, and the Climate Action Teams will convene at least quarterly to aggregate the tasks within the plan-at-large.

### **Carbon and Energy Update**

As a primary and foundational task, the County is embarking on an assessment across its facilities and operations. Specifically, the assessment will explore opportunities for decarbonization, aligning energy project feasibility with the Integrated Infrastructure Plan (IIP) and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), and ensuring that our investments best meet our energy goals. This analysis will support better use of the County's energy data, utility costs, and carbon emission data, and bolster the capacity to select improvements that demonstrate alignment with the 60 percent emission reduction goals. This assessment will also better situate the County to use existing data and build capacity for data modeling and projecting.

This baseline assessment will include a comprehensive look at our data portfolio on energy use and expenditures within the County's data tools (such as EnergyCAP – the platform used for the County's energy and utility data). Analysis of data on utility costs and energy utilization, will inform further annualized CAPCO project recommendations that support the success of the County's carbon and energy goals through investments, improvements and innovative projects that align with the 60 percent emissions reduction goals and that result in savings for the County.

We will be exploring opportunities with our Procurement Department and operational departments to determine beneficial partnerships and contract opportunities to complete this work. Regional Wastewater and Reclamation (RWRD) is conducting a similar audit on the Water Campus for efficiency and energy use.

As outlined in the plans adopted by the Pima County Board of Supervisors, the 60 percent emissions reduction (from 2021 levels) across Pima County operations would bring the County to 38,509 metric tons of carbon equivalent (MTCO<sub>2e</sub>) by 2030. The County's emissions at the start of the CAPCO (the end of the Sustainable Action Plan for County Operations – SAPCO) were ~69,000 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>. Over the next five years the County will venture to reduce emissions by 30,613 MTCO<sub>2e</sub> during the CAPCO period (2025 – 2030).

Two projects that started recently are the Corona de Tucson (Pima County Regional Wastewater and Reclamation Department – RWRD) wastewater facility improvements and a new Solar Installation at the County's Abrams Public Health Center (Pima County Facilities Management). Collectively, these two projects alone have an estimated carbon emissions equivalent reduction of 20 percent of the emissions goals over the CAPCO period (~6,316 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>). Notably, they both demonstrate projected gross savings over the lifetime of the investment that exceeds the investment (\$7 million and \$1.7 million, respectively).

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors  
Re: **Additional Information for the April 21, 2026, Board of Supervisors Meeting - Agenda Item No. 37 – Pima County Climate Action Update on PimaCan! for County Operations (CAPCO) Activities**  
April 17, 2026  
Page 3

The Corona de Tucson project at RWRD is a multi-strategy project for enhanced operations, energy and cost savings. The implementation of solar and improved energy saving blowers to fuel the disinfection system is anticipated to save 28,700,000 kilowatt per hour (kWh) and 16,537 MTCO<sub>2e</sub> over the lifetime (20 years) of the project – 4,134 MTCO<sub>2e</sub> over the CAPCO period.

The Solar Installation at the Abrams Public Health Center demonstrates a data-driven approach to projects for energy efficiency. The County's Facilities Management Department reviewed EnergyCAP data and selected the County's Public Health Center – a building constructed in 2011, housing many of our Public Health Operations, but also leased space, and a Family Medicine Clinic. The facility has ample parking lots and is in one of the higher heat vulnerability areas, demonstrating a smart investment to reduce energy costs, provide shade for guests of the facility, and contribute to the County's emissions goals. The Abrams Solar Installation is anticipated to save 32,819,836 kWh over the lifetime (25 years) and 7,547.42 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>, including 2,182 MTCO<sub>2e</sub> over the CAPCO period.

Pima County Commuter Emissions have been added to the 2025 – 2030 CAPCO (represented for the first time in the County's emissions reductions goals and criterion). These emissions estimates result from Pima County employee engagement in the annual Pima Association of Governments (PAG) Travel Reduction Program (TRP) survey. Historically, the County's response rate has averaged 39 percent, but eclipsed over 55 percent in 2025. This survey provides the County with average miles traveled for work, and number of trips by type, such as single occupant vehicle miles, carpooling, or other alternate modes of transportation that reduce single occupant vehicle use including but not limited to public transportation, bicycling, walking, or telecommuting.

Highlighting the success of the TRP and emissions reduction work conducted by the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the 'Drive Less Pledge.' Annually, DEQ typically receives 100 – 150 total pledges, quarterly; however, between October and December 2025 DEQ received 296 community pledges, of which 156 were just Pima County employees, underscoring a growing commitment to commuter emissions reductions. In that quarter alone, the Drive Less Pledges reduced 9,275 weekly drive-alone miles by County employees.

### **2026 Heat Planning and Preseason Activities**

Over recent years, Pima County (specifically, the Pima County Health Department) has been a leader in the collective heat resilience coordinated effort. This effort includes critical partners, such as City of Tucson, and other local jurisdictions, academic institutions (specifically the University of Arizona), emergency response partners such as American Red Cross, non-governmental agencies including community-based organizations, shelters, and faith-based organizations, among others. This response effort includes the development and oversight of the Cooling Center Network, targeted and shared heat risk communication

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors  
Re: **Additional Information for the April 21, 2026, Board of Supervisors Meeting - Agenda Item No. 37 – Pima County Climate Action Update on PimaCan! for County Operations (CAPCO) Activities**  
April 17, 2026  
Page 4

assets, interdisciplinary efforts to reduce the impact of heat-related illness and death, and collaborative outreach to vulnerable populations.

February 7, 2026 marked the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Southern Arizona Heat Summit** coordinated by the City of Tucson alongside several of the aforementioned partners, sponsors, and collaborators. The Southern Arizona Heat Summit marks the annual collective kick-off to extreme heat pre-season planning and prioritization. The County collaborates closely with the City of Tucson on this event and several of our County Departments were keynote speakers, or session facilitators for many of the conference seminars.

One priority of the first-year strategies is to use public health data from previous heat seasons to inform heat vulnerability. The output of this effort is a geographic information system (GIS) map that includes incidents of heat related illness, and heat-related / caused deaths from the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner to plot and identify heat vulnerability across the County. This map also includes supportive layers to provide data to inform safety strategies for extreme heat, and other priority areas of the CAPCO. The map includes manufactured home density, City of Tucson 911 calls for heat response, area Cooling Centers, Tree Equity Score, surface / heat island temperature data, among others. The map can be analyzed by census tract, Supervisorial districts, County facilities and parcels, and a series of other GIS assets.

This mapping has resulted in a series of follow-up actions. Immediately, it will inform on preseason outreach. Through coordination from the American Red Cross, the County, City of Tucson, the University of Arizona, and other area heat-season partners, Heat Season walks will commence in Spring of 2026. These walks are prioritized in high-heat risk and vulnerable areas, including but not limited to high mobile home density, housing vulnerability or unhoused, and areas with high rates of heat-related illness (determined from historical public health data).

In the 2026 Heat Preseason effort, the team and many volunteers (such as Northern Arizona University, University of Arizona nursing students, high school students, American Red Cross Volunteers, and County and City staff) canvassed the top ten heat risk areas, distributing critical heat season emergency resources. Notably, the preseason heat walks reached over 1,000 people across various neighborhoods and were widely publicized by various news outlets across the region in alignment with critical communication goals for heat season awareness.

The heat response teams will be looking at these data to inform the development and enrollment of cooling center locations for the 2026 Heat Season. Memoranda are forthcoming on the 2025 Heat Season Evaluation, and the upcoming 2026 Heat Season effort – Cooling Center Network, Activities, Planning and Emergency Response. This work is a core tenet of both PimaCan! and One Pima.

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors  
Re: **Additional Information for the April 21, 2026, Board of Supervisors Meeting - Agenda Item No. 37 – Pima County Climate Action Update on PimaCan! for County Operations (CAPCO) Activities**  
April 17, 2026  
Page 5

### **Water Working Group**

The Heat Vulnerability map completion is also supportive of the goals delineated in CAPCO's Water and Landscape chapters. The County's Water Working Group (Pima County Regional Flood Control District, Pima County Regional Wastewater and Reclamation Department, Pima County Facilities, Pima County Parks and Recreation, Pima County Department of Environmental Quality, Pima County Development Services, and Conservation Land Resources) will utilize the facility analysis mentioned in the Carbon and Energy section of this memorandum to also evaluate water use across County facilities, which is a first-year priority in CAPCO, and deploy annualized water demand management recommendations for water efficient fixtures and equipment on County properties in tandem with the energy analysis.

In Spring of 2026, the WWG will provide update memoranda to the BOS on water supply enhancement successes related to priority areas within CAPCO, and in alignment with the Floodplain Management Plan and Pima Prospers. As detailed in the CAPCO, RFCD, through the WWG, will develop a strategic annualized plan for green stormwater infrastructure, effluent reuse, and restoration projects which is informed by numerous data sources including the Heat Vulnerability Map.

Notably, RFCD will be opening the Julia Keen Stormwater Park on May 2, 2026. The Julia Keen Stormwater Park is located within the City of Tucson's Parkview Park. This location was prioritized through an analysis of flood risk, tree equity and ability to design and construct multi-purpose green space. This park was designed and shaped through significant community input, neighborhood involvement and various project partners such as the City of Tucson's Storm to Shade Program, Flowers and Bullets and the Julia Keen Neighborhood Association.

Effluent and water reuse strategies on County properties are continuing to grow. In addition to the GIS Heat Vulnerability Map, the PimaCan! team have worked closely with the County GIS teams to capture all County mapping assets into accessible layers to ensure data-driven planning. Included in these assets are the County's Stormwater Parks and Green Stormwater Infrastructure, reclaimed water lines and mains, and others.

The WWG will provide a comprehensive future update on all the CAPCO priorities including status updates on critical projects such the Julia Keen Stormwater Park, Rita Ranch Detention Basin, the expansion of the use of effluent at the Kino Sports Complex and Stadium District, and other successes.

### **Additional CAPCO First Year Priorities Update**

While this update focuses primarily on the larger first-year action items like the energy assessment and timely / topical priorities like heat season preparation, many of the other CAPCO chapters have been proceeding on first-year goals and are benefitting by the resulting GIS mapping effort for heat vulnerability and green infrastructure and landscape priorities. Both the Water Working Group and the Landscapes working group will utilize information

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors  
Re: **Additional Information for the April 21, 2026, Board of Supervisors Meeting - Agenda Item No. 37 – Pima County Climate Action Update on PimaCan! for County Operations (CAPCO) Activities**  
April 17, 2026  
Page 6

from the heat vulnerability mapping exercise to inform green infrastructure and tree-planting priority strategies in heat vulnerable areas.

Also represented in CAPCO is the Wildfire Mitigation Plan action for the development of an Administrative Procedure for departmental remediation of invasive species on County property. This is intended to be developed in Spring of 2026.

The PimaCan! website continues to enhance publicly available content in each of the priority areas. The team is working on ensuring the Climate Assets Map, with the climate priority layers such as solar, electric vehicle charging, cooling centers, GSI is complete and available. Similarly, recent activities highlighted through our Pima County outreach, media and news are all available in the newsroom section of PimaCan! so the community can stay informed on the County's activities and get involved.

As the County completes its energy assessment, the Climate teams will be working closely with Pima County Information Technology (ITD) and Analytics and Data Governance (ADG) to build analytical tools for tracking our emissions impact. The County will continue to update the Board as enhancements to the PimaCan! website and data / analytical tools are completed.

### **Green Stewards**

The Pima County Green Stewards are the County's sustainability and climate action champions. The Green Stewards Steering Committee represents departments across the County and coordinates educational and action-oriented content for all County employees. Each month, the Green Stewards coordinate relevant topical material in alignment with critical stages of the climate planning implementation, or seasonal / monthly focus areas.

Speakers include County departments, partner jurisdictions, topical experts across the community, and others. In the recent year, the Green Stewards have opened up these monthly roundtables for all County staff, and have worked closely with Pima County Human Resources to promote employee-engagement in the climate and sustainability work through the County's wellness program, with opportunities to gain wellness benefit points with each roundtable, in-person training session, or other volunteer opportunities such as invasive species removal.

Green Stewards education roundtables for the first half of the year included a January kick-off to CAPCO after the December Board of Supervisors approval, February Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan (SDCP) 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, March Bike Month and spring bike events, and the April Smartscares program. Planned for May and June are roundtables on the 2026 Heat Season and Invasive Species / Wildfire.

Green Stewards roundtables and sustainability wellness points have been a positive way to engage all staff on the sustainability and climate work across the County, and enables engagement based on topics of interest.

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors  
Re: **Additional Information for the April 21, 2026, Board of Supervisors Meeting - Agenda Item No. 37 – Pima County Climate Action Update on PimaCan! for County Operations (CAPCO) Activities**  
April 17, 2026  
Page 7

### **Conclusion**

The PimaCan! team has already deployed several foundational first-year strategies and deployed projects that result in positive movement toward the County's climate goals. The interdisciplinary approach to the PimaCan! model has also realized substantial successes on how each working group implementing the CAPCO is leveraging assets from County departments, partner initiatives, and community cohesion to ensure climate action is realized across the region.

We will continue to provide a series of climate subject-specific and regular updates on the progress of the CAPCO strategies and impacts.

JKL/je

### Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator  
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator  
Chad Kasmar, Deputy County Administrator  
Sarah Davis, Senior Advisor, Pima County Administrator's Office  
Pima County Climate Action Executive Team



# pimacan!

*CLIMATE ACTION NOW*

**Climate Action Plan for County Operations (CAPCO) 2025-2030**

Pima County Board of Supervisors Update April 21, 2026



# Climate Action Plan for County Operations 2025-2030



CHAPTER 1

## Carbon & Energy

CHAPTER 2

## Waste & Materials

CHAPTER 3

## Extreme Heat

CHAPTER 4

## Wildfire & Invasive Species

CHAPTER 5

## Water

CHAPTER 6

## Landscapes

CHAPTER 7

## Climate & Community

### CAPCO First Year Tasks

#### **Carbon & Energy**

Energy / Facility Audit (energy, water, equipment, capital)

#### **Waste and Materials**

Recycling and Waste Contract Review and Plan for Surplus

#### **Heat**

Heat Vulnerability Map

#### **Wildfire and Invasive Species**

Invasive Species Administrative Procedure

#### **Water**

Audit on Water use at County Facilities; Use heat vulnerability map and Regional Flood Control District data tools to inform on Green Stormwater Infrastructure; reclaimed water on County landscapes where appropriate

#### **Landscapes**

Use heat vulnerability map, and other data tools to prioritize 7,000 tree planting goal

# Carbon & Energy Updates

## Decarbonization, Energy, & Feasibility Analysis

Provide ability to prioritize projects based on climate and financial impact in alignment CAPCO and Integrated Infrastructure Plan (IIP)

Ability to better use County data, create projections, and build in capacity for data modeling for subsequent years



**Pima County Emissions Goal 60% Carbon Emission Reduction** from 2021 Levels  
2030 Goal for Pima County is 38,509 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>

**Reduce by 30,613 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>** in actual GHGs by 2030  
Projects in today's Climate Update **comprise 20% of the 30,613 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>**  
*(est. 6,316 MTCO<sub>2e</sub> by 2030)*





# Carbon & Energy Project Successes

Corona de Tucson  
Regional Wastewater and Reclamation

28,700,000 kWh saved over lifetime  
4,134 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e over CAPCO period;  
16,537 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e over lifetime

- Project cost \$7M (in CIP), Project total gross savings \$7M (20-year finance term)
- Total Lifetime Gross Savings \$11M





# Carbon & Energy Project Successes

Parking Lot Solar Array at Abrams Public Health Center



## Abrams Public Health Center Solar Installation

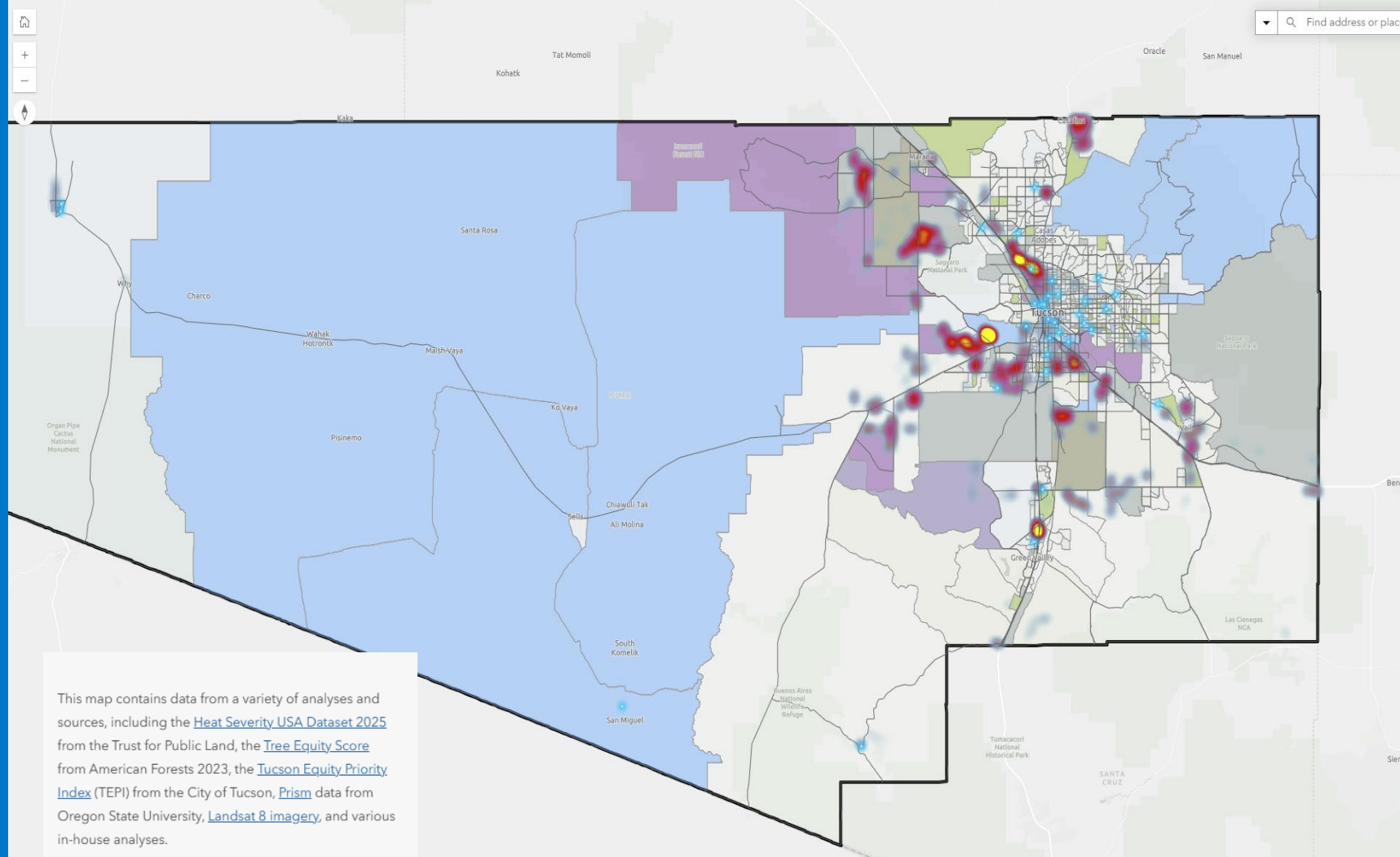
32,819,836 kWh saved over lifetime  
(25 years)  
2,182 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e over CAPCO period;  
7,547.42 over lifetime

- Project cost \$1.7M, Project total gross savings \$1.7M (within 10 years)



# Extreme Heat Heat Vulnerability Map

- Priority Heat Zones
- Frames priority areas for pre-heat season outreach, Cooling Center Network
- Frames priority areas for CAPCO water priorities – such as green stormwater infrastructure, landscapes, tree-planting
- Alignment with One Pima, Prosperity Initiative



This map contains data from a variety of analyses and sources, including the [Heat Severity USA Dataset 2025](#) from the Trust for Public Land, the [Tree Equity Score](#) from American Forests 2023, the [Tucson Equity Priority Index \(TEPI\)](#) from the City of Tucson, [Prism](#) data from Oregon State University, [Landsat 8 imagery](#), and various in-house analyses.

This is a collaborative work with the PimaCan initiative looking to bring greater geographical visualization to the public through the PimaCan website.

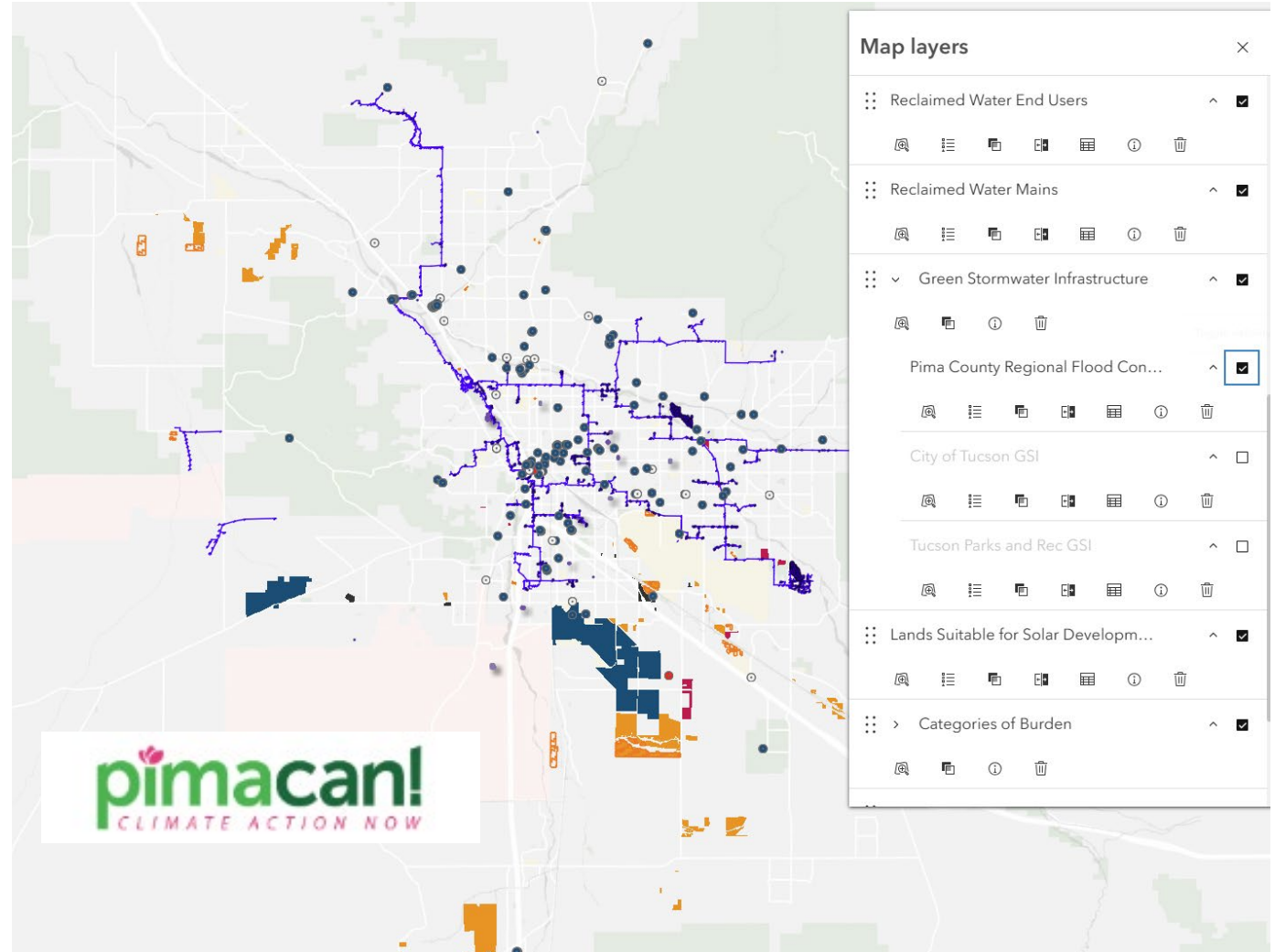
The focus of this data is to highlight heat-related disparity within Pima County. Looking at urban heat patterns, tree canopy coverage, locations of manufactured home communities and access to cooling centers. The hope is to find areas that may be more highly stressed for heat issues so that additional resources can be used to help mitigate some of this stress in these areas.

*This is snapshot which will be reviewed with BOS Offices Includes longitudinal hospital discharge data for Heat Related Illness, Office of the Medical Examiner (OME) heat-related death data, City of Tucson 911 Emergency Calls for Heat and manufactured home density. These data can be layered by Pima County parcels, facilities, and Supervisorial Districts*



# Geographic Information Systems and Geospatial Planning

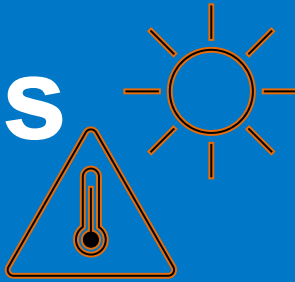
## Pima County Climate Asset Mapping



*Data informed mapping effort to coordinate elements across CAPCO to inform subsequent strategies, priorities, & investments. A component of CAPCO and CCAP that will be available at PimaCan.gov planned for Summer 2026*



# Extreme Heat and Preseason Activities



## Silverlake Mission Neighborhood – Heat Preparedness Canvassing





# Enterprise- Wide Approach to Climate



Get Involved!

- Heat Awareness Week – Second Week of May
- Wildfire Awareness Month – May
- Heat Walk Volunteers - Ongoing
- Invasive Species Volunteering – Ongoing / Community Events
- Grand Opening of RFCD’s new Julia Keen Stormwater Park May 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Pima County Employee Engagement in Climate! Monthly Roundtables In Alignment with CAPCO Activities

**March: Bike Month!**  
(CAPCO - reduction in Commuter Emissions Element)

**April: Pima Smartscares**  
(CAPCO - Landscapes)

**May: Extreme Heat Awareness and Cooling Center Network**  
(CAPCO - Extreme Heat)

**June: Invasive Species and Wildfire**  
(Aligns with CAPCO, Wildfire Mitigation Plan, CWPP, and Invasive Species AP)



### Fiesta in the Park

*¡Fiesta en el parque!*

Join **Pima County Flood Control** for the grand opening of the **new Julia Keen Stormwater Park!**

*El Departamento de Control de Inundaciones del Condado Pima le extiende una cordial invitación a la ceremonia de inauguración del nuevo parque de aguas pluviales Julia Keen.*

**When:** Saturday, May 2 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
*Sábado 2 de mayo, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.*

**Where:** Parkview Park | 1521 S. Chrysler Ave.

**FREE** food, music, and a nature play area for kids!

*¡Tendremos comida gratis, música y un área de juegos para niños! ¡Acompáñenos!*



58160-0110-001-011-01





PIMA COUNTY

# Questions and Thank you!